

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 08932 272001Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ACDE-00 /026 W
-----281549Z 091492 /40

R 271833Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4489
INFO USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
USDEL MBFR VIENNA

S E C R E T LONDON 08932

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECDEF WASHDC, USNMR SHAPE, USCINCEUR

E. O. 11652: XGDS1
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR: GERMAN DATA PROPOSAL

REF: LONDON 8166

1. WE WOULD ADD ANOTHER THOUGHT TO OUR RECENT CABLE WHICH SUGGESTED THAT THE BRITISH HOPE THAT ONCE THE GERMAN DATA PROPOSAL IS FOUND TO BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE EAST, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO PERSUADE THE FRG TO TABLE NATIONAL TOTALS (REFTEL). HMG BELIEVES STRONGLY THAT DESIGNATION BY NATIONALITY IS AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM THAT THE EAST WILL REQUIRE TO PURSUE THE DATA DISCUSSION. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, HMG HAS CONSIDERABLE SKEPTICISM THAT THE SOVIETS ARE REALLY INTERESTED IN A PRECISE DATA EXCHANGE IN ANY EVENT. SUCH A SPECIFIC DISCUSSION PRESUMABLY WOULD SHED LIGHT ON THE ORIGINS OF THE WARSAW PACT FIGURES. BRITISH DOUBT THAT SOVIETS REALLY WANT THAT LIGHT TO SHINE TOO BRIGHTLY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 08932 272001Z

2. NONETHELESS, IN UK VIEW IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO LEAVE PUBLIC PRESENTATIONAL FIELD ON DATA ENTIRELY TO THE EAST. IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT TO DESIGNATE BY NATIONALITY OR BETTER YET TABLE NATIONAL TOTALS NOT BECAUSE IT WOULD PRODUCE AN ILLUMINATINGLY DETAILED DATA DISCUSSION BUT BECAUSE IT WOULD ALLOW NATO TO

REGAIN THE INITIATIVE AND PERSUADE ITS PEOPLES AND PARLIAMENTS THAT THE ALLIANCE HAD DONE ITS SHARE IN PROMOTING MOVEMENT TOWARD AN MBFR AGREEMENT.

3. FOLLOWING FROM THIS, WE WOULD MAKE ONE FINAL POINT. IF THE BRITISH DO HOPE THAT THE GERMANS CAN BE CONVINCED AT SOME POINT THAT NATIONAL TOTALS SHOULD BE TABLED, WE WOULD GUESS THAT THEY WILL LEAVE IT TO THE US TO PERSUADE THE FRG TO TAKE THAT STEP. AS AN FCO OFFICIAL SAID RECENTLY, "IF MBFR WERE ALL THE WORLD, WE WOULD PUSH THE GERMANS. BUT IT IS NOT ALL THE WORLD AND WE NEED THEM AND THEIR MONEY MORE THAN THEY NEED US. IT WOULD BE CRAZY FOR US TO TAKE ON THE GERMANS ON DATA DISAGGREGATION."

4. THAT ABOUT SUMS UP WHAT WE THINK IS THE FUNDAMENTAL BRITISH POSITION ON THIS QUESTION. THEY WOULD BE MOST PLEASED IF, WITHOUT UNDULY STRAINING THE US-FRG RELATIONSHIP, WASHINGTON COULD SHOW BONN THE ERROR OF ITS WAYS. BUT THE BRITISH ARE NOT GOING TO EXPEND MUCH CAPITAL ON THE EFFORT.
SPIERS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, DATA, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON08932
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770191-1106
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770510/aaaaaiij.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 47b65087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 LONDON 8166
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2316040
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: GERMAN DATA PROPOSAL
TAGS: PARM, GE, UK, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/47b65087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009